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The FMLN's forces have occupied the enemy's positions in La Palma, a village in Chalatenango Department, located on the northern highway.

Early reports indicated that our forces took 16 prisoners, all members of the National Guard, and seized 36 weapons, a number of uniforms and a large quantity of ammunition when it occupied La Palma. The FMLN's forces also shot down a Salvadoran Air Force helicopter. The final figures on this victory by our revolutionary army will be released in later transmissions.

We offer our revolutionary salute to our warriors in Chalatenango who participated in this new victory, which we can add to the other victories that we will obtain in conducting the January Revolutionary Heroes military campaign.

More Towns Seized

PA261347 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Our January Revolutionary Heroes offensive continues to advance. In Morazan we have managed to stop four of the dictatorship's special battalions, and in Chalatenango our forces continue advancing and defeating the enemy in complete fulfillment of our strategic objectives. A preliminary report has reached us from Chalatenango on the seizure of the town of La Palma, located on the main northern road that leads into Honduras. The report reads:

Our forces attacked the National Guard post in La Palma, Chalatenango Department, at 0215 on 24 January. Heavy fighting took place that morning, and the enemy was pushed back into their headquarters. At 1400 that day our units stormed and seized the headquarters and captured 16 national guardsmen with all their military gear.

In the early morning hours of the 24 January, FMLN forces also attacked the paramilitary post in San Luis del Carmen, seizing that town at 0200 and resulting in the recovery of two G-3 rifles, three carbines, one Czechoslovak rifle, and other war materiel including a large amount of ammunition. Six prisoners of war were taken during the seizure of San Luis del Carmen. They were later released and turned over to the local people.

At 0500 fighting began in (Acagualpa), where the enemy sustained an undetermined number of casualties. At 0630 fighting began in the positions leading toward Santa Cruz, where we wounded three enemy soldiers. While withdrawing, our forces seized the paramilitary bases in Los Naranjos, and at 0930 we inflicted one casualty on the enemy and recovered additional war materiel.

We also report to our people that at 1035 on the 24 January [words indistinct] downed a military helicopter around (Iramundo) hill, located some 12 km northwest of La Palma.

These preliminary reports on the new victories obtained in Chalatenango were submitted by Commander (Dimas Rodriguez).

FOIS-LAM-83-019

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON DEADLOCKED BELIZE TALKS

PA261959 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] In New York, talks among Guatemala, Belize and the United Kingdom took place in climate of conflict, and no progress of any kind was achieved, according to statements made by diplomatic circles today. Guatemala announced that it will reiterate its claim to the entire territory of Belize and that it will continue to seek to recover it through the path of international law, according to these sources.

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In truth, when these gentlemen like Christopher Dodd, Charles Percy, George Willers, Claiborne Pell, Stephen Solarz, Paul Tsongas, Clarence Long, etcetera, come to investigate the respect for human rights, don't you believe they are referring to the human rights of all the Salvadoran people. They are solely and exclusively referring to the "rights" they grant those who for the past 3 years have imposed a cruel and dehumanizing war on the 4.5 million Salvadorans who want peace, justice, freedom and work.

It can be said that many of the them are a sort of envoy and lawyer of the FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front]. That is why when they return to their country they say terrible things about what the government and army do to "the opposition forces." They never call them subversives and, even less, terrorists. They never talk about the monstrous destructive work of their proteges either because they are not interested or they don't want to know.

It is illogical for those representatives to try to put the Salvadoran Government and Army up against the wall over the issue of human rights, purposely ignoring that we are waging a war, that we are fighting against an open attack about which the entire world knows since the guerrillas in El Salvador would not have the firepower capacity they have were they not being supplied by Cuba via Nicaragua.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Coprefa Report Denied

PA260259 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The military operation that the dictatorship launched 8 days ago in Morazan Department has made no progress. The dictatorship's forces are bogged down, with many casualties and with absolutely no morale.

On 24 January, the army's general command sent another battalion to Morazan to replace the casualties that we have inflicted in our great victories to the north of the Torola River, where, as we have previously reported, we forced the entire Atonal Battalion from its positions in Meanguera and on the north bank of the river. The dictatorship's special battalions are still on the defensive, holding their positions and waiting for replacements, which we already know are in Morazan. Meanwhile, the FMLN's military forces are holding their positions as well, following the enemy's movements and waging a war of attrition on the dictatorship's forces.

On 24 January, local and international media carried a report released by the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, by the genocidal general command, that the dictatorship's special forces had allegedly crossed the Torola River and recaptured Meanguera, Jocoaitique and other towns in northern Morazan. Coprefa also reported that fierce fighting was taking place in Perquin, Torola and San Fernando. Radio Venceremos categorically denies Coprefa's report. All of this is absolutely false. The enemy is trying to achieve with lies and false propaganda what it has not been able to achieve on the battlefield.

Our forces are holding their positions and are well entrenched in that zone to date. On the other hand, the dictatorship's special battalions have made no advances; should they try to do so, they will pay with their lives.

FMLN Forces Seize La Palma

PA260313 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Our January Revolutionary Heroes military campaign is continuing successfully. In contrast, the dictatorship's elite battalions are bogged down in Morazan Department.

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In the negotiations that took place yesterday at the seat of the British mission to the United Nations, Guatemala adopted a more flexible position and proposed as a solution that Guatemala renounce its claims to the entire territory of Belize in exchange for the transfer of Toledo Department, which encompasses 1/6 of Belize's territory.

Guatemala proposes to establish a port and an oil pipeline in that area, the sources said.

For its part, Belize proposed the establishment of a joint development area along the Sarstun River, which Guatemala considers to be an attempt to infiltrate its territory.

(Robert Levy), Belize's ambassador to the United Nations, said that Belize's sovereignty [brief break in transmission] in the meeting, he insisted on the firm proposal that in the delimitation of the border within Guatemalan territory, the southern part of the Monkey River be included, but the British delegation rejected this proposal.

The Guatemalan mission was led by Mario Quinones Amezcuita, our ambassador to the United Nations, and included (Luisa Echinela), director of legal affairs for the Foreign Ministry, and (David Vela).

Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola has said that Guatemala is firmly determined not to yield in the dispute.

[Begin recording] [Castillo] The Guatemalan Government's position is firm; it is not possible to yield. One can agree to compensations of other kinds, such as economic cooperation, programs or whatever, facilities for a port on the Pacific for Belize, etc., etc., but we cannot yield in matters that are fundamental and vital to Guatemala and its overall development.

[Question] Will the claim to the territory of Toledo be maintained?

[Answer] As the delegation said yesterday, repeating the position of the president of the republic, which I have also stated for some time, in the present situation, there can be no change for Guatemala. We will wait whatever time is necessary to seek the legitimate restitution of Guatemala's rights to the territory of Belize.

[Question] Were the British and Belizean delegations to the talks made up of high-ranking officials?

[Answer] Yes, high-ranking officials. Ambassador (White) is an official of the permanent mission at the United Nations. Another member is from the British Foreign Office. For Belize there was [name indistinct] (Lesley), the Belizean ambassador to the United Nations, and also a minister who came from Belize. [end recording]

Guatemala would be willing to accept the return of Toledo district, according to a statement made yesterday by Foreign Minister Castillo Arriola.

[Begin Castillo recording] In a conciliatory manner, the government proposed the cession of Toledo district and the use of natural limits, either a high dividing mountain or a river whose course would serve permanently as a border. This has been Guatemala's proposal to the United Kingdom.

The negotiations that have taken place recently included the talks in November. At that time, we agreed on an agenda with Belize and the United Kingdom, but with Belize forming part of the UK delegation, because the negotiation is not tripartite one, but rather bilateral.

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In this regard, in November we gave them a complete study with mpas regarding Guatemala's proposal. We said that if they had a vital interest in resolving this situation, which would give Belize great facilities and improvements, first of all access to a friendly, sisterly Guatemala that would cooperate to seek the development of Belize. [sentence as heard] Belize would have secure border delimited bilaterally, which would also be beneficial to Guatemala, with all the facilities that Guatemala could provide, not only in the strictly economic aspect of development, but also in the areas of health, education and cooperation, and also aid to Belize for its entry into international organizations such as [break in record] [end recording].

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR GOOD SENSE ON BELIZE ISSUE

PA262034 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO America in Spanish 18 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] When the United Kingdom unilaterally granted "independence" to Belize, it demonstrated its traditional cunning in negotiations in which the interests of the parties in dispute is at stake.

This ability for cunning -- backed by a powerful fleet -- did not find in its Guatemalan counterpart the same type of artifice or even the necessary intelligence to present debatable arguments that would have weight with world wide public opinion, which was manipulated masterfully by the usurping power.

This is not a case of self-examination to admit our errors or the incompetence of the officials to whom we entrusted the ligation for many years, but we should not try to fool ourselves or lament the weakness we have shown in all walks of life.

Guatemala's reaction to the dispossession is one of dignity, and if the possibility of dialogue still exists, the conditions discussed at the conference table have to be realistic, and their negotiation feasible.

If Belize wants a future of prosperity and peace with its neighbors, as a really sovereign state within the regional group of which it is part; Guatemala has proposed an intelligent and worthy solution; an outlet to the sea through the Toledo district.

The new state's internal policies can be manipulated to hinder any understandings in the next round of negotiations, but if commonsense prevails, the possibility of an easing of tension in that part of Central America would be within reach, along with the corresponding benefits for the countries involved. The United Kingdom, Guatemala and Belize are not interested in leaving future generations a legacy of instability and unrest.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT SUAZO CORDOVA ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY

PA260140 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1626 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Speech by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova at inauguration of Constituent Assembly at Legislative Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Excerpts] When I assumed the constitutional presidency on 26 January 1982, I outlined the ideological and pragmatic concepts that would guide my administration, infused with my desire to implement our government plan based on the sovereign mandate of the people. In this respect, I called upon all sectors of Honduran society to hold a national encounter of all sectors, proclaiming a government by consensus in which everyone contributed to effective distribution of justice in pursuit of a united Honduran people.